



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Minutes of a Local Needs Housing Committee Meeting held in the Snooker Room, Langton Green Village Hall on Friday 18th June 2010 at 11.30am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Wheeler (Chairman), Cllrs Mrs Hull, Langridge, Brown and Milner

OFFICER PRESENT: Chris May, Clerk; Mrs Flemington, Asst Clerk

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:** Cllr Langridge proposed that Cllr Wheeler be re-elected as Chairman. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**. Cllr Wheeler proposed that Cllr Mrs Hull be elected as Vice Chairman. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.
2. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest:** There were none
3. **Declarations of Lobbying:** None received
4. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none
5. **Minutes** of the meeting **dated 19th February 2010**, copies having previously been forwarded to all Members, were approved and signed as a correct record.
6. **Matters Arising and Correspondence:** An email had been received from Sarah Lewis, Affordable Housing Officer, TWBC advising that a price had been agreed in principal for site 15 in Speldhurst.
7. **Update on current situation:** Prior to the meeting four Councillors and the assistant clerk had accompanied Sarah Lewis and Deborah Dixon to view some sites in Langton Green for possible future use for LNH. At this stage there were four possibilities
 - Speeds Farm, Farnham Lane
 - Asher Reeds (field behind – access between 21/23)
 - Hollonds Farm (TWBC to contact)
 - Recreation Ground (land behind car park)

There was a feeling among Councillors that they were falling behind on the information curve again. The email and the information from Sarah Lewis had only been received because we requested it - it had been hoped that the Parish Council would have been kept abreast of progress. **Clerk to request progress updates.**

There was a discussion on the regulations that will apply for the applicants to qualify for the housing and how this would proceed in the future. **The clerk to request this information from ERHA.**

There were questions regarding site 15 and whether the whole site was to be used for the number of units because it was considered too large for the purpose. **The clerk was requested to ask TWBC for the information.**

Deborah Dixon has visited the fourth brown field site in Barden Rd and although potentially suitable Deborah has indicated it is up to the owner to approach TWBC. Cllr Milner knows the owner and volunteered to investigate further. The other three brown field sites in Speldhurst have been rejected by TWBC for various reasons.

- 8. Strategic Planning and Development Controls – Portfolio Holder Non Key Decisions:** The Local Development Framework (LDF) consultation paper had been produced by TWBC and needed clarification because there were differences between this document and the LNH units that had been proposed. **The clerk was requested to seek more information and more copies** for Councillors to review. The Strategic Reviews had a questionnaire and it was suggested that the Parish Council should respond. It was therefore decided that Members would review their copy of the LDF and recommend an appropriate response to Full Council before the August meeting (deadline is 9th August). Cllr Mrs Hull reiterated her view that the LDF was fragmenting the Parish because the plan for Langton Green was within the TW Limits to Build Development (LBD) and not with Speldhurst. It was also noted that the LDF had land that was being considered for housing that the LNH committee had not been informed about. Cllr Mrs Hull also noted that the LDF quoted that “Rural Exceptions Sites for local needs affordable housing must be well related to the village they will serve” and therefore not the Parish. **The clerk was requested to clarify these points.**
- 9. Future timetable: The clerk was requested to organise a meeting** with ERHA to brief the LNH committee on the latest progress and a likely timetable of events.
- 10. Items for Information** – Cllr Brown was in holiday for two weeks

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

Chairman